

COMMUNITY FACILITIES - ENERGY

Town of Eastham Goals and Performance Standards

The Cape Cod Commission, through its Regional Policy Plan for Barnstable County, has established an overall planning goal and minimum performance standard for Energy. Eastham's goal and minimum performance standard are consistent with the Regional Policy Plan.

- 4.5 Goal:** To encourage energy conservation and improved energy efficiency, stimulate investment in energy conservation, renewable energy resources, and distributed generation, and manage land uses to maximize energy efficiency.

Minimum Performance Standards

- 4.5.1 New development shall be required to lay new utility lines underground for aesthetic reasons, safety, maintenance of a high degree of power reliability, and facilitation of the development of walkways and bikeways.
- 4.5.2 Energy-saving transportation activities including carpooling, mass transit programs, bicycling, and walking shall be encouraged as an alternative to automobile trips. Where feasible, historic footpaths shall be maintained and safe bicycle and walking links shall be created to establish an interconnected regional transportation system. Where feasible, bikeways and footpath connections between commercial and residential neighborhoods and between compatible uses shall be provided to create a safe alternative to travel on major roads.

Other Development Review Policies

- 4.5.3 Development and redevelopment should be designed to promote the efficient use of energy, including orienting structures to take advantage of solar gain and to maintain solar access for adjacent sites. Site design should protect and optimize the potential for the use of solar energy for heating and electricity.
- 4.5.4 Development and redevelopment should incorporate energy-efficiency measures that exceed state standards. Energy-efficient construction techniques and materials to be encouraged would include but not be limited to:
- Above-minimum R-values for insulation of walls, attics, and foundations;
 - Use of thermal-pane windows with low-emissivity coating with high R-values;
 - Annual fuel-usage efficiency ratings of at least 90% for all new heating systems; and
 - Use of segregated or on-demand water heaters.

Analysis

At the Eastham Special Town Meeting on November 16, 1998 the town voted to approve membership in the Cape Light Compact (CLC) and its Energy Efficiency Plan. The CLC, a consumer advocate for Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard moved to find less expensive electric rates. CLC entered into a contract with Select Energy, Inc of Burlington, Connecticut. This contract would have saved Cape and Island consumers substantial sums off their electric bills. However, as the contract was about to be finalized the price of natural gas and oil suddenly reached all time highs and the contract had to be put on hold. Middle Eastern unrest and other factors were at the root cause of these energy increases. The Select Energy contract can go forward if there is a decline in oil and gas prices and tension stabilizes in the Middle East.

In the early spring of 2002 the CLC entered into a contract with Mirant Technologies to replace N'Star and to supply electricity to the Cape's so called, "Default Customers" who pay the highest rates. Usually the Default Customers are those on the lower end of income scale. The kilowatt rate reduction was 27%. 900 families in Eastham are benefiting from this reduction together with 40,000 users on the Cape and Martha's Vineyard.

Eastham Aquaculture Technology & Training Center through the efforts of Eastham's members on the CLC board of Governors has been successful in getting the operation off Default service, and on to the best electric rate available.

Eastham has been awarded an Energy Efficiency Program budget of \$49,936 by the CLC, for the year 2002. The Town of Eastham, private homeowners and commercial businesses in Eastham can use these funds. 26.6% of that budget has been utilized in Eastham through May 2002.

The permitting process is under way to place an Energy Wind Farm off Cape Cod in Nantucket Sound. If approved there would be 170 wind turbines installed that could produce enough electric energy for the entire Cape. This project would be a first in the USA and the largest sea base wind farm in the world. The project is controversial with many pro and con-qualified experts.

Implementation

Recommended Town Actions

- A. Work with the Cape Light Compact through its Compact representative on developing and promoting the Community Choice Power Supply Program, Energy Efficiency Program, and Distributed Generation Program.
- B. Enforce energy conservation standards for development and redevelopment.
- C. Consider providing incentives, to be developed by the Energy Committee, for the use of energy-conserving building improvements and renewable energy devices in all existing and new buildings, if cost effectiveness over the improvements' expected lifetimes can be demonstrated.
- D. Make municipal buildings, facilities, and street lighting more energy efficient. A percentage of the net monetary savings from conservation at municipal buildings should be invested in further energy improvements.
- E. Utilizing clean alternative fuels, such as propane gas Consolidated Natural Gas (CNG), super-oxygenated fuel additives such as ethanol and biodiesel, and electricity, for all new fleet vehicles and shuttle buses.
- F. Work with the Commission, Cape Light Compact, and other organizations to educate citizens about renewable energy and distributed generation through public demonstration projects.
- G. Establish a priority list of overhead utility lines and associated structures that should be installed underground for reasons of safety, enhancement of community character, heritage preservation, or restoration of scenic views.
- H. Record and document energy savings and set aside 50% of those proceeds for future development of new renewable sources.
- I. Work with the Cape Cod Home Builders Association to develop a plan to implement energy efficient building methods, procedures and products to be utilized in the construction of dwellings and substantial additions to existing dwellings.
- J. Establish an Energy Committee responsible for development procedures for the implementation of recommended town actions.

*See “Energy” and “Air Quality” in Implementation section

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